

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming device capable of replacing any of a plurality of cartridges comprising:

a driving unit for moving the position of the toner cartridge;

a detecting unit for detecting necessity of replacing a toner cartridge;

a control unit for controlling said driving unit in order to move a toner cartridge that needs to be replaced to a specified replacement position preset for toner cartridge replacement, when the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected by said detecting unit; and

a receiving unit for receiving a printing instruction, wherein

said control unit further controls said driving unit in order to move each toner cartridge to a printable position, and to move the toner cartridge that needs to be replaced back to said replacement position after a specified printing is completed, when a printing instruction is received by said receiving unit while the toner cartridge that needs to be replaced has been moved to said replacement position and is ready to be replaced.

2. An image forming device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a rotatable toner cartridge holding unit for holding the toner cartridges, wherein

said driving unit has a rotary driving unit for rotating said cartridge holding unit.

3. An image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein

said plurality of toner cartridges are toner cartridges of cyan, magenta, yellow, and black colors.

4. An image forming device as claimed in claim 2, wherein

said plurality of toner cartridges are toner cartridges of cyan, magenta, yellow, and black colors.

5. An image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein

said detecting unit detects the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

6. An image forming device as claimed in claim 2, wherein

said detecting unit detects the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

7. An image forming device as claimed in claim 3, wherein

said detecting unit detects the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

8. An image forming device as claimed in claim 4, wherein

said detecting unit detects the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

9. An image forming method for forming image using a plurality of replaceable toner cartridges comprising the steps of:

1) detecting necessity of replacing a toner cartridges;
and

2) controlling a driving unit for moving the position of the toner cartridge in order to move a toner cartridge that needs to be replaced to a specified replacement position preset for toner cartridge replacement, when the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected in step 1), wherein

step 2) includes a step of controlling said driving unit in order to move each toner cartridge to a printable position, and to move the toner cartridge that needs to be replaced back to said replacement position after a specified printing is completed, when a printing instruction is received while the toner cartridge to be replaced has been moved to said

replacement position and is ready to be replaced.

10. An image forming method as claimed in claim 9, wherein

said driving unit has a rotary driving unit for rotating a rotatable cartridge holding unit for holding the toner cartridges.

11. An image forming method as claimed in claim 9, wherein

said plurality of toner cartridges are toner cartridges of cyan, magenta, yellow, and black colors.

12. An image forming method as claimed in claim 10, wherein

said plurality of toner cartridges are toner cartridges of cyan, magenta, yellow, and black colors.

13. An image forming method as claimed in claim 9, wherein

the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected in step 1) based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

14. An image forming method as claimed in claim 10, wherein

the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected in step 1) based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

15. An image forming method as claimed in claim 11, wherein

the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected in step 1) based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

16. An image forming method as claimed in claim 12, wherein

the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected in step 1) based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

17. A program product for controlling an image forming device capable of replacing any of a plurality of cartridges, said program product causing the image forming device to execute a process comprising the steps of:

1) detecting necessity of replacing toner cartridges;
and

2) controlling a driving unit for moving the position of the toner cartridge in order to move a toner cartridge that needs to be replaced to a specified replacement position preset for toner cartridge replacement, when the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected in step 1), wherein

step 2) includes a step of controlling said driving unit in order to move each toner cartridge to a printable position, and to move the toner cartridge that needs to be replaced

back to said replacement position after a specified printing is completed, when a printing instruction is received while the toner cartridge to be replaced has been moved to said replacement position and is ready to be replaced.

18. A program product as claimed in claim 17, wherein said driving unit has a rotary driving unit for rotating a rotatable cartridge holding unit for holding the toner cartridges.

19. A program product as claimed in claim 17, wherein said plurality of toner cartridges are toner cartridges of cyan, magenta, yellow, and black colors.

20. A program product as claimed in claim 18, wherein said plurality of toner cartridges are toner cartridges of cyan, magenta, yellow, and black colors.

21. A program product as claimed in claim 17, wherein the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected in step 1) based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

22. A program product as claimed in claim 18, wherein the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected in step 1) based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

23. A program product as claimed in claim 19, wherein the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected

in step 1) based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

24. A program product as claimed in claim 20, wherein the necessity of replacing a toner cartridge is detected in step 1) based on an amount of toner remaining in the toner cartridge.

25. A program product as claimed in claim 17, which is a computer readable recording medium on which a program causing the image forming device to execute said process is recorded.